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Rose Thorn Staff

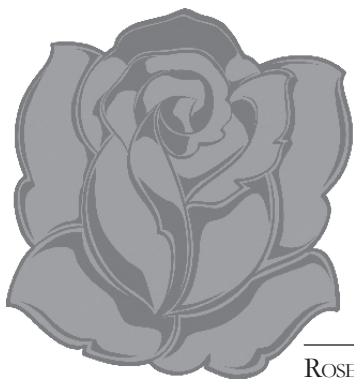
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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012 • VOLUME 47 • ISSUE 20

Freedom Riders celebrate empowerment, diversity

Ranjana Chandramouli
staff writer

On Saturday, March 17th, the Rose chapter of the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) hosted an event to allow actual Freedom Riders as well as people close to the movement to speak about their experiences during a difficult and oppressive time. The Freedom Rides, which began in May of 1961, protested the laws of segregation and the lasting effects of Jim Crow laws by riding busses into the southern part of the United States. The presentation consisted of both ‘street theater’ skits, run by Kwame Lillard, as well as recol-

lections from two actual Freedom Riders, Dr. Etta Simpson Ray and Matthew Walker. The session concluded with Gilbert Holmes, the executive director for the Indiana division of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who connected the experiences of the Freedom Riders to the fight for rights currently. The ‘Voices of Freedom,’ which was sponsored by Eli Lilly, was nearly a year in the making, according to NSBE secretary, sophomore biomedical engineering major Grace Johnson-Bann, who was familiar with the Freedom Riders’ experience from encounters in high school. What began as an event to in-

crease the cultural awareness of NSBE members expanded to a community-wide event after Johnson-Bann realized that “the enormity of the Freedom Riders’ efforts... impacted the American community [as a whole], not just the black community.” Kwame Lillard, who studied mechanical engineering as an undergraduate, organized various ‘street theater’ re-enactments to encapsulate what life was like in the 1960s for African-Americans. While not an active participant in the rides, he helped organize civil rights efforts in the city of Nashville.

He called for students, faculty and community members as volunteers to re-enact a sit-in at a diner in Nashville during the 1960s. As he heavily heckled and abused the students, simulating throwing food and even the beating some activists would encounter, the volunteers were trained to not react in the slightest, in the same

way the protesters were nearly 50 years ago. The severity and reality of these re-enactments made a deep impact with the audience as a whole, but especially resonated with actual Freedom Riders, Dr. Etta Simpson Ray and Matthew Walker Jr., both of whom traveled to Rose last week to share with us their person experiences. Dr. Ray was particularly moved by the re-enactment and was emotional when speaking to the audience about the hatred and bigotry that motivated her to participate and the extreme violence she then encountered. Walker was one of the first four African-Americans to be served at a public lunch counter as a victory form the Nashville sit-ins, and was also arrested as a result of his involvement in the Freedom Rides. Their personal recounts of their experiences made the civil rights movement “more real than just reading about them,” remarked Johnson-Bann. Perhaps what resonated most was that most of the participants in the Freedom Rides were college students, like the students at Rose. Six universities in Nashville had students participate in the Freedom Rides, two of which were white universities. The connection made to their lives as college students made a big impact on the audience, awakening them to the gravity of the Free-

dom Riders’ decision and giving them something to which they could personally connect. The ‘Voices of Freedom’ was supported by the Center for Diversity here at Rose. This same collaborative has hosted a number of events in the past few months, including inviting a celebrated flautist to perform during the lunch hours and hosting a food festival. The purpose of these events, including the Freedom Riders seminar, was to give life to different walks of life and to “increase folks’ awareness of lifestyles, histories, and cultures that are different than their own,” according to Dr. Luanne Tilstra, who is the director of the Center for Diversity. While people may not completely change their minds about jazz music or Chinese food, they will be able to develop an awareness and understanding of them that they did not have previously, Tilstra remarked. Tilstra continued, “diverse input leads to innovative solution,” and the people who will succeed are those who can celebrate and work effectively with diverse people. Kwame Lillard, speaking about the Freedom Rides, made a comment about overcoming diversity and struggles that can still resonate with Rose students everywhere today: “[People shouldn’t] lower themselves down to hatred. [You should] always raise yourselves above it.”



Student and faculty volunteers helped re-enact a sit-in where activists were heckled and abused in Nashville in the 1960s.
Jessica Reames • photo editor

Food and fun help grant wishes

Jason Latimer • staff writer

The Rose-Hulman and ISU chapters of Chi Omega hosted their annual “Make-a-Dish for Make-a-Wish” dinner last Saturday to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a national organization that fulfills the wishes of terminally ill children. A \$5 dollar ticket bought attendees their choice of a meal from an assortment of foods, ranging from Italian to Asian to classic American cuisine, and more. The line to enter extended out the door with more than an hour wait. In addition to the food, people could pay an additional \$3 to access a game room with fun and activities. Senior Jessica Spore, Community Service Director of Chi Omega at Rose, coordinated the efforts of the Rose chap-

ter with those of the ISU chapter and supervised the committees that executed Make-a-Dish. One particularly sticky situation that Spore had to deal with was the temperature both at and behind the scenes. “Once the event starts my job switches mostly to responding to situations as they arise,” she said. “This year with the heat, we had to ensure our girls working the event as well as our guests weren’t overheating.” “Cooking behind the scenes was hectic and really hot!” she said. “However, we had help from so many of our wonderful girls that we were able to get almost all of the preparations and cooking done during the four hours we had in the kitchen before the event began. Let’s just say that

without the help of Mark Farner and all the other Aramark workers, we would have never been able to make this event a success.” According to Spore, the night “was a great success.” Total funds raised for Chi Omega’s national philanthropy have surpassed \$6,000 and are still rising. However, thanks to a special guest, attendees didn’t need to look very far to see where their money was going. “I don’t know how many people realized that our wish child and their family were at our event,” Spore

said. “I think that aspect makes the event really personal.”



A variety of food was available to attendees, and an additional donation granted access to a game room.
Sloane Masden • guest photographer

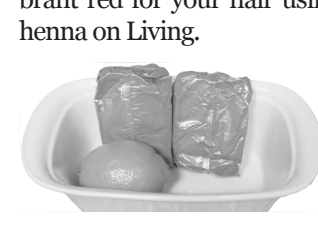
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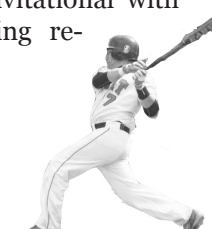
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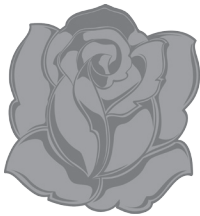
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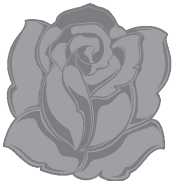


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Issues of The Rose Thorn are published on the first through ninth Fridays of each academic quarter.

WEEKLY MEETINGS OCCUR at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Wednesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submissions may be made by email to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Hulman Memorial Union room 249. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

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Campus groups fundraise for storm victims

Jason Latimer • staff writer

In response to the fatal storms that swept across the Midwest earlier this month, Alpha Phi Omega and the Senior Committee have collected food, school supplies, and monetary donations for storm victims for the past two weeks. This is no ordinary fundraiser, however. It's for a cause very close to homes and hearts of sophomores Emily Moeller and Patricia Bacala, the very people running it.

"I was reading all these articles online about the storm," Co-Chair of Fundraising for APO Moeller said. "In my hometown in southwestern Ohio, we got some of those same storms. We had a tornado warning issued, but no tornado actually formed."

Although Moeller was not directly affected, her peace of mind was. She decided to step in.

"How did we get so lucky, when some people lost everything? Little towns were simply destroyed. The schools, the grocery stores, the churches, even some of the people gone," she said. "I told Patricia that we needed to do something to help."

Her co-chair was way ahead of

her, having already helped with relief efforts over quarter break in her hometown.

"I live just ten miles north of Henryville, a town that was completely destroyed by the storms. Thankfully, little to no damage met my hometown of Scottsburg," Bacala said. "When Emily brought up the idea of using our positions as co-chairs of

Jordan of the Senior Committee. All funds collected go to the Disaster Relief Fund by the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, where it will help towards long-term recovery and the rebuilding of homes, schools, and lives, some of which Bacala knew personally.

"One of my teachers from high school lives the next street over

tials."

APO and the Senior Committee will be accepting food and monetary donations through fourth week. Moeller, who is proud of Rose students' "willingness to give" so far, intends to collect as much as she can.

"These people were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It could've

been any of our little towns; it could've been Terre Haute that got hit with these storms," she said. "These people need long-term help rebuilding and restoring their towns and their lives, and we can help them do that."

The calamity that transpired on that horrendous night of March 2 may have ravaged the landscape of southern Indiana, but it left a

deeper mark on the ones that call that landscape home.

"Just viewing the town from the interstate you're able to see remnants of where businesses once stood, vehicles flattened, and trees ripped from their roots," Bacala said. "Sometimes we get so caught up in the negative things going on in our lives that we rarely take the time to step back and see what we should be thankful for."



Storms ravaged towns across Indiana, like Henryville (left) and Marysville (right) causing a dozen deaths and prompting Governor Mitch Daniels to request federal aid from FEMA.

<http://knoxnews.com>



fundraising in APO towards the tornado relief efforts, she had my full support."

APO, along with the Senior Committee, walked from dorm to dorm the weekend after break to collect money and food, raising almost \$400 in under two hours. Now there are red bins in the Union lobby and Moench Commons for food, and anyone wishing to donate money can contact Moeller, Bacala, or Andrew

from the school that was completely destroyed," Bacala said. "My town did not experience such damage, but we've been affected in a different way. I've been so amazed at my community and everything they are doing for our neighbors down the road. A local church set up a shelter for those displaced, and several businesses have gotten together and started up a collection for clothing, canned goods, and other essen-

Food For Thought kicks off diversity programs

Alayna McNamara • staff writer

Last Thursday, students had the opportunity to eat free food while learning about diversity. The Council of Diversity sponsored "Food for Thought," an event where several local organizations set up information booths to talk about their personal sustainability efforts. Professors and students worked together to serve a variety of different foods during the event, which was held in the Kahn room and was enjoyed by nearly 300 students.

The main support behind the event came from council members Dr. Diane Evans and Dr. Luanne Tilstra. Tilstra is the director for Rose-Hulman's Center for Diversity, which is currently in its inaugural year. One of its goals is receiving student input on potential events. When considering what events to hold, Dr. Evans surveyed the campus through Banner Web.

"We asked what students and faculty wanted to learn more about. The top options were sorted into two groupings: 'mental health and depression' and 'going green and eating organic, cultural foods.'"

Food for Thought was the first of the council's two events for this quarter, and it focused on the second grouping. Indian, Korean, African, and Thai cuisine were offered at the event;

even vegetarian options were available. Students enjoyed the free food, and as sophomore Eric Ames remarked, "normally, if it's food, I eat it. However, this food was actually really delicious."

The food was not all that was offered, however. Organizations such as ISU Community Gardens and the White Violet Eco-Center were also there to talk to attendees about sustainability in Terre Haute.

A representative from Royer Farms, a local meat farm, said that organic production and local sale are important to them because "people really appreciate knowing where their food comes from. Our meat is free of hormones and antibiotics, and it is very much different than the more processed meat you would find at your local superstore."

They, along with the rest of the vendors, are working toward increasing sustainability in and lessening the global impact of Terre Haute. Visiting Rose-Hulman allowed them to raise awareness on campus about these issues.

Overall, Dr. Evans thought the event "went well." The other diversity event regarding mental illness and depression will be a panel discussion held after spring break, and student input will drive planning for each of the diversity events.

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A return to formula for a Nintendo classic

Alex Manke • staff writer

“The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword” is the second main Zelda title for the Nintendo Wii. The game’s ambitious controls and setting outweigh some weak design choices to deliver another satisfying game from Nintendo.

The game’s world is split into a sky world and a proper overworld. While in the sky world, most of the player’s time will be spent on the main island with the various shops and oddball citizens one would expect to populate a Zelda game. The rest of the sky can be explored on the back of a giant bird. The world under the clouds is split into three distinct types of environments that open up as the game progresses. The environments look bright and colorful without becoming a cell-shaded mess. Expect to meet new species as this world is the predecessor to all the other games. Fortunately, they are all very likable and make sense with what each environment tries to do.

The controls use the Wii Motion Plus, meaning that the game will register more complex movements, such as tilting and directional swings. The tilting is used for flying around and works well enough, but don’t expect the bird to pull off moves seen only at air shows. The swordplay revolves around picking the best direction to swing to exploit an enemy’s weakness, but shield bashing usually makes an opening big enough to hack everything without much finesse. Aiming uses tilting, relieving the player from aiming the remote at the sensor bar to draw a bead. The only complaint I have is that item swapping doesn’t pause the screen, so pulling out the tool you need



<http://zeldac.com>

in the heat of battle can cost the player a couple hearts. The only time the controller stopped acting correctly was when I swung violently. If you don’t panic, there isn’t any reason to abuse the controller like that, so one can expect the controls to remain faithful.

The gameplay is what you expect: earn access to a dungeon, solve puzzles inside the dungeon, get a new item, beat the boss in his chamber, repeat. The dungeons are clever, but more time is spent outside the dungeons, where dexterity matters more than cleverness. The biggest examples of this are the Silent Realms, where the player is stripped of all items and must traverse the environment picking up collectibles before the one-hit-kill monsters wake up. These modes borrow from my least favorite parts of the past few Zelda games, so I was disappointed to see them. I was able to clear them quickly, so I didn’t mind them as much. The set of items mixed new and old, but even the classics had new tricks to them. Many of the tools can be upgraded via collecting treasure, which is something I hope to see continue in the future.

This game is definitely a buy for anyone who has ever liked a Zelda game. Absolute newcomers may not understand the significance of the story, but the experience should be enough to pique their interest for more.

Rating 4.5/5 elephants



“Port of Morrow” satisfies

Andrew Schmidt • staff writer

The Shins remain strong with “Port of Morrow.”

It’s been five long years since The Shins’ last album, “Winning the Night Away,” was released on indie-superlabel Sub Pop Records. During that time, frontman James Mercer partnered a successful side project, Broken Bells, with Danger Mouse. The Shins have also seen some changes to their lineup in the past few years, with original member Jesse Sandoval being asked to leave the band by Mercer, along with other changes. Through the lineup adjustments, the true spirit of The Shins that we’ve come to know remains intact.



<http://audiocred.com>

Mercer said recently in an interview with Last.fm that “Port of Morrow” hits on themes of love, influenced by his newfound domestic lifestyle with his wife and daughters. This is apparent in the album’s first single, “Simple Song,” where Mercer sings that it “could be there’s nothing else in our lives so critical as this little home.” A theme of calm, pensive reflection on common life struggles is apparent in “It’s Only Life,” with Mercer proclaiming that he’s “been down the very road you’re walking now; it doesn’t have to be so dark and lonesome.” The album isn’t without the energetic passion of former Shins tracks, with powerful notes of what Mercer calls “the dual nature of life...

the beautiful and the grotesque,” apparent on the opener, “The Rifle’s Spiral.” Fun is also available to be had with the funky, bubbly beat that backs “Bait and Switch.”

“Port of Morrow” is a rejuvenating yet nostalgic album for the band. Increased usage of electronic instrumentation and careful post-production gives the release a clean, modern feel. Still, Mercer’s characteristic vocals shine through and take the foreground on every track, sometimes dreamy and subdued, and sometimes firm and compelling. This may be symbolic of the fact that the band remains very much Mercer’s venture, as evidenced by the aforementioned coordinat-

ed lineup changes.

After three critically-acclaimed albums and an extended hiatus, there was certainly pressure to perform on this new, independent record. While the tracks perhaps won’t stand up to the highly revered hits of the past, “Port of Morrow” will give Shins fans some more material to chew on for a while. The album is out now, and The Shins will be touring heavily to promote it over the next 18 months.

Rating: 3.5/5 elephants



Ghibli triumphs

Kevin Weaver
Entertainment Editor

Studio Ghibli is, for lack of a better metaphor, the Pixar of Japan. Since their founding in 1985, they have produced and made seventeen feature films. Of those seventeen, only one has ever critically been seen as a flop. Mathematically, that gives the audience a 94 percent chance that their newest movie will be spectacular. “The Secret World of Arrietty” does not disappoint.

“Arrietty” is a film based off the famous 1952 novel by Mary Norton. Unlike the novel, this is set in a more modern Japan. It centers around two characters, the young borrower Arrietty and a sickly boy named Shaun. The setting begins with Shaun being sent to his mother’s home away from the city so he can relax before he undergoes a dangerous heart surgery. While there, he discovers Arrietty in his room, borrowing a piece of tissue paper. Terrified, she leaves while Shaun gently asks her to stay, listing calmly, but almost desperately, all the reasons why he wants her to be there.

If I start to give away any more than that, I’ll be destroying the integrity of this movie. What I can still say is that this movie holds no bars for developing all characters on screen. Watching the relationship between Arrietty and Shaun grow not only warms the heart, but gives the audience a deep connection with the characters as well, to a point where I heard more than one

person in the audience crying. Yes, I did, too. No, I’m not telling you when.

If the story isn’t your style, then maybe the art is. The movie is all hand-drawn atop beautiful background paintings, taking up details that

“Did I cry? Yes. Will I tell you when? No.

most artists would ignore. Still don’t like the art? I bet you’ll enjoy the music. More than thrice in the movie, I kept reminding myself to find the soundtrack later, with soothing rhythms and heart capturing vocals. Still not good enough? Then how about a good life lesson, just for all the tikes out there? I have never seen a movie, game, or song ever present the beauty of life quite as well, or as majestically, as Studio Ghibli has with this movie.

The Secret World of Arrietty is another treat from Studio Ghibli that would be a sin to miss.

Rating: 5/5 elephants



How to get eye-catching, vibrant red hair

Jessica Reames
staff writer

I've been hearing a lot of questions lately about how I got my hair to look the way that it does. Simply put, that is a very long answer, but I can share with you how I got the vibrant red. I used henna.

If you speak with most hair stylists, they will say that henna is bad for your hair. Sadly, the stylists are often misinformed. Pure henna is not bad for hair in any way. Compound dyes claiming to be henna, containing mineral salts and very little henna, are bad for hair. The added ingredients cause all kinds of havoc, and you should not use compound henna dyes.

You want pure henna (lawsonia inermis) powder. It comes from a desert loving plant that grows along northern Africa through the Middle East and all the way to India. The leaves of the plants are dried and then ground into varying degrees of fineness, which is sold as henna powder.

A word of caution: It is very permanent.

Cassia and indigo are sometimes marketed as neutral and black henna, respectively, but they are not henna.

The dye molecule of the henna plant is orange-red. It will only dye shades of orange and red. The resulting color depends on what color hair you started with. The dye is transparent, meaning that you can still see all the natural highlights and colors of the hair underneath through the orange-red. White and light blonde hair results in a

very orange color after henna application. Brown hair has many different shades and can range from vivid red to burgundy after henna. Black hair often does not show the red color because the starting color was too dark. Henna usually just makes black hair shinier. You will not get the same shade of red that I have because henna is transparent orange and works with your existing hair color. Henna is a fantastic conditioner and helps to smooth out damaged hair shafts in the way that the dye molecule bonds to the keratin in the strands.

You can find henna powder in Indian and Middle Eastern groceries as well as from a large assortment of online vendors. Henna from different regions will dye different shades because the growing conditions of the plant determine dye content. I use body art quality henna because it has the finest grind, and all the stems and other debris have been removed. The finer the powder, the easier it is to wash out after application. The length and thickness of your hair will determine how much henna powder you need. Initially it is safer to overestimate because you can freeze leftovers for up to 6 months. My hair reaches my natural waist with moderate thickness and takes about 200 grams of henna.

A word of caution: henna is permanent. It does not fade like other dyes, and it is extremely difficult to remove. It behaves unpredictably with bleach and chemical strippers. You can apply a darker dye over the top of henna to cover it up or wait until it grows out. You could also do what I do and reapply every 6 weeks or so. This keeps the roots covered up and helps the ends approach color saturation. Please, do a strand test first with some hair tak-



Two hundred grams of the good stuff is ready for preparation in this ceramic bowl.
Jessica Reames • staff photographer

en from your hairbrush. This step is especially important if there is dye already present in your hair.

- My Henna Ingredients:
- 200 grams henna powder
 - 1 lemon
 - filtered water
 - honey
 - peppermint essential oil
 - plastic wrap
 - nitrile gloves
 - shower cap
 - dark colored towel
 - 6 hair clips/ties
 - ceramic bowl
 - spoon
 - necessary

I mix the henna with the juice from one lemon and enough water to give it the consistency of thick mashed potatoes in the ceramic bowl. I use lemon juice because the acid helps the dye to lyse from the plant cells faster. You could alternatively use orange juice, lime juice, apple cider vinegar, white vinegar, or coffee. I then add one spoon of honey because it smoothes out the texture a little bit. I put plastic wrap over the top of the henna, making sure that the henna paste is in contact with the plastic, not air. I let the henna

sit for 5+ hours, usually overnight. The dye is ready when it leaves an orange stain on your palm after 15 minutes.

Thin the henna paste out with some more water. You are going for the consistency of yogurt. I add a couple of drops of the peppermint oil here because it changes the smell to something that I find nicer. Section your hair into about six sections. Applying henna is easier and faster with the help of a friend. Wear gloves of some sort; henna will stain your skin. Starting at the base of your head, apply the henna to your scalp and down the length of your hair. Be gentle; henna paste has a consistency similar to mud, and you want it to completely coat the hairs and your scalp. Move through the sections until you have applied henna to your entire head.

Pile all your hair on your head in some way and cover with plastic wrap and then the shower cap. Wash all the stray henna off your face, neck, ears, and back. Clean up the bathroom. Store any leftover paste in the freezer. Wrap your head in a dark towel. The towel helps to warm the dye by trapping your body heat which makes it release color more effec-

tively. Go do something else for 2-4 hours.

When you are ready to wash the henna out, take all the wraps off your head and thoroughly rinse for at least 10 minutes. I start heavily applying conditioner at this point because it is slicker than shampoo. After two or three applications of conditioner, I shampoo once, and then condition some more. When your hair feels free and loose, you've probably rinsed enough. Let your hair air dry. It will likely be something on the order of Bozo the Clown orange when it dries. Do not fret. It will oxidize over the next couple of days and become more red than orange. Your hair will still bleed orange when it gets wet for about a week, so don't wear any white shirts and put a towel over your pillow if you have white sheets.

For more information, please see the website henna-forhair.com. It is filled with information compiled by Catherine Cartwright-Jones about henna, including a free e-book on how to apply henna to hair. There is also information about the history of henna uses, patterns for henna art, and a forum for questions if you cannot find them in the FAQ.

Put spring in those steps

Katrina Brandenburg
living editor

Spring weather seems to have arrived early, and it brought with it all the temptations of spring time. It is a rarity to discover someone who does not appreciate the warm feeling of a ray of sunshine, the knowledge that the weather is fit for outdoor activities like hiking or swimming, the idea of trading pale wintry skin for the tanner and more summery version, or the prospect of doing homework outside in the breeze

while the birds chirp in the trees.

Spring time, however, is not immune to the old adage of having everything in moderation. Going outside to enjoy the weather can be distracting. It is easy to sit on a bench and just enjoy the difference between today's weather and the weather of a few weeks past. It is easy to go out for a bike ride or to take a long walk. It is easier to get a sun tan. All of this glory of this early spring time only makes it hard. It is hard to sit down and

focus on homework, projects, and exams. It is hard to take precautions against the few pitfalls of spring time. It is hard to remember to be safe.

In the spring time, students here must complete one more quarter before the summer arrives. To make it easier, it is advisable to indulge oneself carefully. Sit outside and enjoy the weather with friends during a limited time span such as the time it normally takes to eat lunch. The joy of picnicking combines a necessary task, eating, with a

task that might otherwise just be killing time, appreciating the weather by experiencing it. Exercise is healthy and necessary. If it is a regular part of the daily routine, make it a bicycle ride or a walk that takes the usually allotted amount of time. Leave sun tanning to occur naturally over time as more sun exposure leads to it. Do homework outside in the lovely weather only if the weather does not inspire too much day dreaming and reminiscing on the joy of approaching summertime activities.

THE ROSE THORN PHOTOGRAPHY: NOW SEEKING INTERESTED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR THIS QUARTER AND THE FUTURE. EMAIL REAMESJL@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU

The other side of the desk Whatever gets the job done



Sudipa Kirtley • faculty writer

Procrastination is a concept that we are all familiar with. If we go back to our early memories, procrastination probably started with common household or school-related chores for all of us. I used to promise to prepare myself thoroughly before all of my middle and high school final examinations, even for the subjects that I did not care for very much at that time. But of course, many times I kept the exam preparation for the last minute. I still remember crouching on my father's easy chair, holding my geography text, watching the faint pink of the sunrise outside, and desperately trying to cram the text information into some cerebral memory chip to regurgitate the material a few hours later.

Time and space have shifted; I am now older and in a different continent. This persistence for procrastination in different people is still very apparent to me. I see this in my students, in my colleagues, and in myself. I have become somewhat wiser for I know which ones I cannot get away with by procrastinating. I see that most of my students are still learning. When I teach a particular class, I try to judge the students' motivation and character, and sometimes set a single class policy for the entire class. For instance, I may give a homework assignment for the class that is due at the end of the week, partly because I want them to be more responsible for their own tasks, and partly because they can shuffle school work at their own pace. For some classes I do not have to reiterate the fact as much as in some others the need to look at the homework (and therefore class material) as soon as possible; I can see that many students understand

the whole concept of getting things done early. For others this does not work.

When we delay tasks, we get piled up with an immense stack of to-do list, and when the crunch time comes we can remain effective and cognizant only for a finite period of time. For example, if you procrastinate reviewing the class material, you will get a smaller amount from the entire course. You push things under the rug hoping that they will not be tested in an exam, and you keep doing this till you find that a huge amount of the course has escaped you. As a professor, I find the same story. If I postpone writing a research grant, something gets lost. Either the depth or the breadth of the concept is jeopardized. I can do the writing and the background research in a hurry and think that I am doing the best, but something somewhere remains missing. If I postpone grading my students' exams, I cannot talk about the issues that some students are having while the topic is still fresh in their minds.

What is it about delaying that appeals to us all? The quick answer is probably laziness, or a lack of efficient use of time. Though I have heard another explanation: a propensity for perfection. Those who want to perfect a task, postpone it further and further away with the hope that the conditions in which it will be finally done will be far superior. Of course, perfectionists can be either dawdlers or instant do-ers.

In view of all of the above, here is my resolution for this spring. I will act on the spot. Whether it is that I think I should grade exams, write research proposals, conserve water, recycle plastic bags, do deep breathing, go walking, donate to Doctors Without Borders, get in touch with an old friend, or plant strawberries, I shall do it right now. I will not postpone it; if the action depends on someone else, I will get the process started. One thing that I am realizing as more life lessons are learnt is that there is no time like NOW! I will therefore no longer postpone my life any further. Perhaps I will attain perfection. Perhaps not, but I will surely get the job done.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY & THE WORLD: The fallen dream



With the end of the shuttle program comes the end of an era of dreams.

<http://images.nonexiste.net>

Viktor Goben • staff writer

American society used to have grand dreams. But what were once grand dreams have become mere science fiction once again.

Over the space of some 60 years, the American society went from barely imagining that flying machines were possible to putting men and machine into space and on the moon. Every child born into the era of space travel once dreamed of being an astronaut or otherwise achieving great things.

In the modern American society, children dream of being on reality TV shows and ending as a Hollywood-style celebrity, settling for temporary fame instead of lasting glory.

Perhaps the bigger question in this is why did we stop dreaming and pass those dreams of achieving lasting greatness to other nations?

This writer thinks that the American society stopped dreaming because it stopped

having to race to catch up to the science being made.

The American space program is all but defunct, leaving space to other nations to put people into orbit and master the sciences we as Americans have forsaken. Currently, the American space program consists of monitoring satellites. Nothing more and nothing less. A far cry from the massive space platforms and extra-solar vehicles science fiction and Hollywood dreamed of our world having achieved by this point.

Our governments dream only vaguely of putting people on Mars, but are far slower than their desperate race to put people on the moon. Why? Because the American public doesn't care about space anymore.

The general public has become willfully ignorant of wonders that lie in space, focusing more on the "we can't" part of our current science rather than dreaming of the "we can" parts—the magic that is just beyond everything

we've tried to explain with science so far. And because of that lack of vision, we—the American people—have lapsed into dreaming of that temporary fame and the shiny toys that come with it, however brief it may be.

Many of our modern science fiction writers and thinkers have found this lack of a vision disconcerting, because the society that doesn't dream of lasting greatness won't grow to fill that greatness. And the society that won't grow does not leave a lasting mark upon its world, solar system, universe, or dimension.

It's not always easy to imagine what the future could be like, but consider what may happen if, in the next twenty years, we develop a Martian colony with 500+ residents, cybernetic implants that let you become your gaming character, and travel to other stars becomes possible.

We should, we *must* dream bigger than ourselves as those are the people who achieve that lasting greatness.

Letters
to the editor



One year ago yesterday my wife Leah gave birth to our twins, Lydia and Kellan. Unfortunately, they were born a wee bit early—fourteen weeks early to be exact. They spent over 100 days in the newborn intensive care unit before they came home, and my son Kellan had surgery to repair a minor heart defect. I can now cheerfully report that they are both happy, healthy, giggly little babies. For me, this past year was a time of incredible joy tempered by heart-smashing worry. The love, support, and generosity that we received from all of you was overwhelming, and I struggle to express my gratitude. I would like specially to thank Cathy and Janice at Java City, who maintained a donation jar for Leah and me, and all of you (many anonymously) who gave your time, money, and home-cooked meals during the hardest days of our lives. Just your friendly smiles and hellos were a lifesaver. I will never be able to repay your kindness, but Lydia and

Kellan will grow up knowing what you did for them and their mom and dad. I'm proud and lucky to be part of the Rose-Hulman family. Thank-you.



Dr. Peter Coppinger
Assistant Professor of Applied Biology

Baseball squad riding high

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

The Rose-Hulman Invitational brought three baseball teams to Terre Haute to square off against one another this past weekend. The Fightin' Engineers ended the weekend 2 - 1 against Illinois Wesleyan, Alma, and Concordia College, who snatched the win away from Rose-Hulman Saturday afternoon.

The Invitational kicked off with the Engineers defeating Illinois Wesleyan in a 7 - 3 finish. Leading the offense was sophomore Andrew Benitez who slammed a two-run home run and had two runs batted in.

Sophomore Parker Fulkerson added a home run in the eighth, senior Will Burchett batted two runs in, and senior Jamie Weinle batted in another to round out the effort.

On the mound, junior Ethan Post worked hard for five innings with three strikeouts and just eight hits scattered; senior Ryan Fuller stepped up in relief to pitch four shutout innings, allowing just two hits.

Later that afternoon, Concordia College stole the show with a big 18 - 5 win, scoring four times in the third inning and six times in the fourth to run away with the victory.



Sophomore Hank Akard captured his third save against Alma, whilst adding three hits.

Rose-Hulman Athletics

The following day, the Engineers faced off against Alma College and picked up a 15 - 7 win to finish the weekend with a winning record and tie with Concordia College and Illinois Wesleyan for first place in the Invitational.

Despite an early 2 - 7 deficit, the Engineers smashed 23 hits and added six runs in the fourth inning to grab the win.

Weinle led the effort with three hits, including his first home run this season, and he added two runs batted in. Sophomore Hank Akard provided support with three hits and two runs on the afternoon.



Building on previous success, the Rose-Hulman baseball team won three out of its four games this week.

Rose-Hulman Athletics



The team recorded 23 hits against Alma, their highest total since 2010.

Rose-Hulman Athletics

The strong offensive effort led freshman Caleb Post to his first collegiate win on the mound. Post allowed just one run and five hits, and Akard pitched the final three scoreless innings to earn the save, his third of the season.

Rose-Hulman improved to 9 - 4 overall with the strong weekend showing. Dating back to the team's Florida trip earlier this month, the Fightin' Engineers have won six out of their last seven games. They will open their conference schedule this weekend with a trip to Defiance College.

Athlete of the week Andrew Benitez



Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor

Winning three out of their four games last week, including finishing the Rose-Hulman Invitational in a tie for first place, the Rose-Hulman baseball team will start out the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference schedule with a 9-4 record. Spurring the Fightin' Engineers to victory over Illinois Wesleyan University, sophomore Andrew Benitez blasted a two-run home run to go along with three singles. Benitez batted .500 last week with two home runs, one double, seven RBIs, and five runs scored.

For his achievements last week, Benitez has been named Athlete of the Week. He was gracious enough to answer a handful of questions for *The Rose Thorn*.

Rose Thorn: How long have you been playing baseball?

Andrew Benitez: I've been playing for as long as I can remember. I've always had a bat or a baseball in my hand ever since

I was little.

RT: Who is your favorite professional player?

AB: My favorite player is Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves. I've always looked up to him. My Dad, Grandpa, and I would always watch Braves games when I was little and I always thought of Chipper as the best player ever.

RT: What do you enjoy most about playing baseball?

AB: I love the guys on the team. They make it worthwhile playing for Rose. I love them like brothers and I don't think I would play for any other team if it meant I wouldn't be with the guys I'm with now.

RT: What has been your favorite moment as a member of the Rose-Hulman baseball team?

AB: This past weekend was the most memorable for me. My dad was in town from Hawaii and got to see me play. He wasn't able to come and see any games last year because he was deployed in Afghanistan. I was really happy that

I had a good performance while he was here because he hasn't seen me play since my senior year in high school.

RT: What are your goals for the team and also for yourself this season?

AB: Our team goal is to win conference. I feel really good about the team we have this year and I feel like we will be very competitive in our conference. I'd love to see us win conference and get to regionals. I just want to do whatever the team needs me to do to help us win conference.

RT: How have the dynamics of the team changed since last season?

AB: I feel like our team this year has extremely good chemistry, not to say that last year's team didn't have good chemistry. I think that is one of the reasons Rose baseball is as successful as it is. We aren't just a group of guys on a team. We're best friends out there having fun, helping each other out, and having each other's back.

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A modest proposal for New Res Hall

“The Flipside Flats”

Stephen Mayhew • staff writer

It has been brought to our attention that there is a vacuum on campus. Nature, and the Flipside, abhors a vacuum, and especially this one: there is an unnamed building on campus. We submit it is imperative that a name be chosen post-haste. Because Percopo Hall remained unnamed for a time, several Rose graduates from years past still refer to it as ‘New Res.’ Let us avoid this ignominious fate for our new building! Let us seize the opportunity to make a difference on our campus.

As those intrepid astronauts with a small step and a giant leap declared the moon as American soil, and as Roald Amundsen planted his flag in the snow, and therefore his name in the imaginations of the world, so we lay our stake on this virgin soil, this unclaimed building. Hereafter, it shall be known as “The Flipside Flats.” Thus it has been christened, may it stand for ages. Some readers may find it convenient to shorten the name to “The Flats,” or even “The Flips.” These are acceptable, and within the spirit of the declaration.

In defense of our proposed christening, let us offer that fact that the building, much like its illustrious namesake,

is not immediately visible, but when it is discovered it is a ray of sunshine to even the most ashen-faced and stony-browed.

And so “New Res” will be at once retired.

And now the “Flipside Flats” fore’er admired.



Recent polls suggest that the most probable (and awesome) name for the new residence hall is “The Flipside Flats.”

Rose-Hulman News

Wacky prof quotes

“Your mom’s not connected to the Internet.”

–Dr. DeVasher. *Oh no he didn’t! ([echo] Oh yes he did!). Insane student/professor brawl ensues.*

“I always tell people I have a cool beard and cool glasses and everything else is hot.”

–Dr. Bunch. *In truth, “cool” is an unnecessary descriptor. A beard is always cool, provided it’s a *real* beard.*

“Speaking of boring stuff, let’s start the next topic.”

–Dr. Yoder. *If every student got a nickel for everytime they thought that, we’d all be at least a dollar richer.*

“Mr. Elliot has his poems and his erectile dysfunction... Mrs. Elliot could do her own thing.”

–Dr. Taylor, *on the origins of the women’s rights movement.*

“I must be getting old. I used to be able to do this really fast.”

–Dr. Anderson. *We lose that ability?! Nooooooooooo! Wait... what were **you** talking about?*

“It was like sticking markers in our nose, it was awesome.”

–Dr. DeVasher. *From her new book, “Memoirs of a First Grader 2: Post-Paste.”*

Rose professors say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Q: Interested in writing for the Flipside?

A: Yes. Yes you are!

Flipside is always looking for original and hilarious content from any of its readers (professors included!).

If you have any great ideas*, your comedy score is over 9,000, or you just want to be a part of the Flipside, email thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu right away!

*Any submitted content or ideas will be promptly judged be a panel of **comedy experts.

**Don’t worry, they’re illiterate. You’ll be just fine.

Re-Re-Announcing: wacky prof quote raffle competition

Now with *EVEN* more exclamation!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This quarter the Flipside will be rewarding one student with a \$25 Visa gift card for their delivery of a spectacular and hilarious professor quote. To our dismay, bare-knuckle cage fights were dismissed as “too edgy” for our refined student body; in its place, we will hold a raffle to determine the winner. Here’s how the competition will work...

1. Next time your professor says something funny, wacky, or weird, send an email to thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu with the quote and professor’s name.
2. If the quote makes it onto the flipside (it may take two weeks), a ticket with your name will be entered into the raffle. For each quote you get onto the page, you will receive a ticket into the raffle. If there are multiple submissions for a quote, each submitter will receive a ticket.
3. Each submitter, regardless of whether the quote gets on the page, will also receive one positive thought on behalf of the Cool Guy.
4. At the end of the quarter, the raffle will be drawn, and one student will receive a \$25 Visa gift card!

Top “10” Ten

Next big projects for the betterment of Rose-Hulman

Thorn Staff • It’s Spring and we still haven’t showered!

10. Underground tunnels: Vigorous studies have shown that tunnels connecting residence halls to the academic buildings can shave a whopping 10% (30 seconds) off of travel time. Also, sometimes its cold outside in the winter : ‘ (.

9. Escalators in academic buildings: There are seriously, like, soooooooooo maaaaaany stiiiiiiirs evvvery-wheerrre.

8. Zip-line from Percopo to the Union: It’ll be the first time in the history of Rose-Hulman that students yell “wheeeee!” and “I love *going* to school!” on their way to class.

7. Hot tubs: Let’s not fool ourselves. This would just be great.

6. Moving walkways: Finally the lagubrious journey from Crapo to Olin would be an adven terous journey that necessitates no walking whatsoever. Relative motion at its finest!

5. Biosphere: Because what we all need is a little more time indoors. At the very least, we wouldn’t be lying to our mothers when we say we’re spending time with nature.

4. Designated “nap” rooms: Fully stocked with cots, pillows, and egregiously large stuffed animals for cuddling. No purpling, please!

3. TVs EVERYWHERE: Seriously, we can’t focus without a constant barrage of entertainment being thrown at our faces.

2. Lecture broadcasting system: There would be an epidemic of pale skin and muscular dystrophy amongst students. On the plus side, think about how clean the academic buildings would be if there were never a single student in them, ever.

1. Lazy river through campus: Students need something to do with those free periods, and public security has cracked down on fountain baths.